THE TENNESSEE TEST OATH

From the New York Commercial Advertisor. A few days ago we adverted to the course of Andrew Johnson in Tennessee, in ordering a strange and unusual, not to say illegal, test for those who would vote at the coming election, and the hope was expressed that the President would at once repudiate the "plan" of his Military Governor, and disavow any suspicion or intention of

interfering with a free ballot in Tennessee. It is impossible for any right minded man, free from partisan bias, to approve the Tennessee test oath and the manner of its requirement. Mr. Johnson, who orders the cath, is on the same ticket with Mr. Lincoln, who re, ards opposition to it as a "political" concoction. They desire to have the votes of Tennessee, and, in order that they may get them all, compel the voter to take an oath which obliges him to vote against the Democratic nominee, and to pledge h mself to any possible terms of peace or negotistions therefor, until the rebels are utterly subdued. This and consider" propositions "which come by and with an anthority that can control the armies now at war against the United States." A person having such control must from a rebel in arms would be " met by liberal terms." Mr. Lincoln, if "honest" in his letter, would be debarred from a vote in Tendessee. He could not take the oath prescribed by Andrew Johnson, and could reach the ballot-box only by a resort to the "war nower."

It is precisely such a course as this taken in Tennessee that changes doubtful men in the Border States to open enemies: that encourages the opponents of the Administration and gives them fresh war cries; that makes the "Judicious grieve," because a " wild hunt for office" renders those to whom grave public trusts are committed so careless of the limitations of their prerogatives; and that loorens the respect for our free institutions by placing the mandate of a ruler above the plainest suggestions of justice toward political opponents.

Let us not be misunderstood. The openly disloyal must not be allowed to vote in those States where military operations are conducted or are necessary-rebels must be kent under surveillance within our lines. The ballot-box may be purified and the rights of loyal men regarded without resort to a test so utterly indefensible as that required in Tennessee, and which may yet be exacted in other States.

We publish elsewhere the report of the interview with Mr. Lincoln, and a portion of the protest of the Tennesseans That they are the McClellan electors does not pre clude them from the possession of rights which the President "is bound to respect," while it should have entitled them to a dignified hearing. The President's talk of "political concection," his preferring to manage his "side" in his own " way," and his bint, only, that he may give the delegation an answer, are all unworthy of the chief of the nation, who should be above mere partisan motives, and whose "side" should in reality be the "side" of the people. As well might James Buchanan in 1860 have required the voters to swear to sustain the platform of the way, non tali auxilio, that the power and influence of republican institutions are to be sustained. And we do most earnestly hope that the President, instead of issuing a "smart" letter in reply to the Tennessee complaint, will "manage his side" by strict adherence to the right.

From the New York Sun of October 18th.

The inherent power of a people to an untrammeled se lection of public officers is the fundamental principle of republican government-the corner-stone of liberty. For this right the war of the Revolution was inaugurated; for its perpetuation the Federal Union was erected. It is the sacred inheritance which the Fathers of the Republic have warned us, more repeatedly than any other, to guard with the most saxious solicitude-to protect with the most jealous care. They knew that freedom of election is the great barrier which protects republican government from the encreachments of despotism, and they foresaw the inevitable consequence that would follow its destruction. An ordeal like that through which our country is now passing was perhaps never anticipated by the founder ernment; but they were aware of the general truth that the tendency of civil war is to generate despotism, and no doubt they sought to counteract the influence of centralixation by unlimited freedom of ballot.

In those districts which at the present time are under military occupation, and where there is unquestionably an element of opposition to the Government, it is right and proper that a test of cyalty should be adopted. To this no plausible objection can be made, for it is demanded alike by justice to our cause and consideration for the interests of the loyal classes in those districts. Further than this, however, the Government has no constitutional right to go. Neither the President nor his subordinates is justifiable in making any distinction between electors, unless that distinction is for the sole purpose of separating loyalty from disloyalty.

In Tennessee the Military Governor of the State, who also happens to be the President's colleague in the present political canvass, has practically nullified the privilege of free ballot in his State. He has issued an order for the government of the forthcoming election, and has appended an oath which he prescribes as a qualification for voting. This cath provides that the voter shall swear to "oppose all armistices or negotiations for peace with rebels in arms until the Constitution of the United States, and all laws and proclamations made in pursuance thereof, shall be ests blished over all the people of every State and Territory emitraced within the National Union," etc. This means that the elector must endorse the President's emancipation proclamation, the confiscation act, and all the anti slavery edicts and proclamations which have emanated from the present Administration.

But this proceeding of Governor Johnson is not an iso-

lated case. In every other district which is under military surveillance the same general course has been pursued, al though to some extent modified in certain instances. one alluded to, however, is sufficient to illustrate the dangerous encroschments that are being made upon the freedon of election. It teaches that if the American people would preserve those rights which they have inherited from their fathers, they must by all loyal means insist upon a rigid observance of the Constitution by those Whom they have elevated to power.

A REBEL ACCOUNT OF THURSDAY'S FIGHT

The Richmond Examiner of Friday, the 14th, contains the following account of the fight of Thursday last, on the Darbytown road, a loyal account of which was given in yesterday's Intelligencer. The Examiner says:

"About eleven o'clock yesterday reports were rife in the cary of a great battle having been opened on the Dar-tyrown road. They said the enemy had thrown a heavy force of cavalry and infantry on the left of our line, and that the fighting was of the severest character. It was also stated that Kautz's cavalry were attempting to turn our lett. Later in the day it was announced on the streets that the enemy had made three separate attacks on our that the enemy set time heavily repulsed with great loss, our loss being light. For once there was much truth in atrest reports. The enemy early yesterday morning made an attack on our left centre, between Charles City and Darbytown roads, but were repulsed. Several again they renewed the effort, but each time with a similar result. Desultory fighting was kept up during the day buth four o'clock yesterday evening, when the attack was again renewed, thus time more heavily than ever, but again ey were driven back with great loss and without having mase the slightest impression on our lines. At six o'clock last evening the enemy had retired from the field and quiet once mo e reigned on the Darbytown road."

We add the official despatch of Gen. Lee to the Confed. erate Secretary of War :

HEADQUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA,

Hor J. A. SEDDON, Secretary of War. At seven o'clock this morning the enemy endeavored to advance between the Darbytown and Charles City reads, but was repulsed in every attempt. The most strenuous effort was made about four P. M., after which he withdrew, leaving many dead. Our loss very slight.

Gen. Breckinridge reports that a force of the enemy came to Greensville on the 12th, and was defeated by Gen. Vaughan. Lome prisoners, two stands of colors, many borses and arms were captured. The enemy lost many killed and wounded. Our loss slight.

R. E. LEE, General Commanding.

THE PRESIDENCY.

PEECH OF MR. JOHN VAN BUREN. FROM THE NEW YORK EXPRESS

John Van Buren's Speech in Philadelphia-The War Protracted for Partisan Purposes-The Administration bent on Destroying Gen. Mc-Clellan rather than the Rebels-The Crittenden Platform the only thing that can Stop the War and Restore the Union.

JOHN VAN BUREN, Esq., of New York, addressed a crowded house at the Headquarters of the Keystone Club in Philadelphia, on the 7th instant. Mr. Tatlow Jackson introduced the distinguished orator.

Mr. VAN BUREN commenced his remarks by adverting to the political situation of the hour, and the choice presented to the people of supporting either Abraham Lincoln or General McClellan.

At the commencement of the war we were called upon to sustain the legal head of the Government, and those who sought to overthrow the authority of the Union and requirement reacts upon the President also, who, in his | the Constitution. In common with others of the Demo-"to whom it may concern" letter, proposes to "receive cratic party, Mr. Van Buren had felt called upon to urge the people, whatever their views regarding the policy of the Government, not to withhold their support from the legal authorities of the nation or the prosecution of the be a "rebel in arms," against whom the Johnson test is war in which we were engaged. At the same time that directed. Mr. Lincoln further said that such propositions | the Democratic party gave an entire and unhesitating support to the Government it could not but observe the departure of that Government from the strict constitutional laws of the country, and its disregard of the pure principles of liberty, save with deep regret and intense indignation. [Applause.]

The policy of the Government was so unwise that at the commencement of the war, with an armed rebellion in front and the deep dissatisfaction at the measures of the President in their flank and rear, it seemed hardly possible that the Administration could ride over the sea of difficulties that surrounded it and reach the end that is now happily legitimately approaching. At that time it was supposed by many that the Presidential term would expire before we could properly discuss the actions of the President of the United States. And now, to use the language of his letter to Mr. Blair, "the time has come."

We are engaged in a war that has lasted for some three years and a half. It has imposed upon the country an enormous debt. It has been destructive of life, and it is still raging, and promises to rage for an indefinite period. It is idle, under such circumstances, therefore, to advert to any other question. The questions that now press upon the mind are: Is the continuation of the war at the present time, and has it been, a matter of necessity? Is is prosecuted with ability, vigor, and patriotism? Is there a promise that it will be so in future by the existing authorities? Are they competent to negotiate a peace?

The charge in now laid upon the Administration that the war has been unnecessarily protracted for partisan and political purposes by the furtherance of electioneering chemes and through gross incapacity. [Applause.] When the President came into power we had a debt of \$65,000,000. The Secretary of the Treasury apprizes us now that we have a debt of \$2,000,000,000, and if the facts are truly stated, and the legitimate claims upon the Treasury recognised, and the unpaid creditors of the Charleston Convention, as for Mr. Lincoln to require an Government satisfied, the debt would probably reach oath against that of Chicago in 1864. It is not in this \$400,000,000,000. Added to that in every county and township there is an enormous accumulation of debt, necessary, it may be, for bounties to volunteers and for various expenses incident to the war, indispensable for the purpose of county and State taxation. We have a war raging that is costing us some three and a half millions per day; we have an army of nearly a million of men un. der pay, and the people out of their humble means are called upon to support them. For the last three years the war debt has accumulated at the rate of one thousand millions a year, and there is a probability, unless there is a change of Administration, that it will accumulate as rapidly as that for the future.

> Now, the people should remember that the war has been prosecuted without ability and without vigor. They should remember that politics and not patriotism has been the distinctive feature of the war, and we all should remember that the prosecution of the war and this accumu lation of debt lies at the door of a party that has presented itself to us for at least another four years of power. [Great applause.]

> The war has been conducted with a disregard of advice him that he would require 250,000 men to prosecute the war. Was the slightest attention paid to that? No: 75.000 men were called out. The riot act was read to the South. [Great laughter.] They were told to disperse, Secretary of State said it would blow over in sixty days. The President declared to us that nobody was hurt, [roars of laughter,] and Mr. Seward, on the banks of the Mississippi, comfortably removed from danger, cried out, Buren, I was afraid, and my worst fears have been realized by the result

> At the time the war commenced there happened to be a was called upon very shortly afterward to furnish a plan of the campaign upon which he entered. Now, since the time of his being placed at the head of the army up to this hour no effort has been spared to embarrass him. Had the whole object of the war been to destroy McClellan. and not the rebels, the efforts made to accomplish the purpose reflect credit upon the prosecutors. [Cheers] But that cannot be accomplished without our aid, [cheers.] and it is proper that we have a little to say on this subject.

When Gen. McClellan started for Richmond he had with him three corps d'armée. They were taken from him from time to time during the campaign. The corps were Wool's, Blenker's, and McDowell's, and the last was taken from him in the very act of battle with the enemy, on the way to Richmond. In defiance of this, he came nearer to Richmond, in July, 1862, than Grant is to-night. [Cheers.] Or, to use a stronger simile, he was as near as Lee was to Washington during the summer. [Repeated cheers. | Now, this was done somewhat for a dread of the sacredness of the President's own person, which he he could be useful to them where he was, [loud laughter,] people was such that Abram's lease for four years more was in danger.

President tells us that it is not a good time to swap horses. To use his own elegant language, we are now in the stream, and we had better hold on to him than run the risk of getting a worse-a better person by letting him go. [Great laughter] He has done nothing but swap. He swapped McClellan for Pope, and the bloody battle of Bull Run followed. He swapped Pope for McClellan, and the splendid victory of Antietam was the result, [three cheers for Antietam,] and that was the only commendable swap he ever made. He swapped McClellan for Burnside. and the terrible reverse of Fredericksburg followed. He awapped Burnside for Hooker, and Chancellorsville showed the wisdom of the act. He swapped Hooker for Meade, and Meade for Grant. Nor has the swapping been confined to the army. He has swapped away his Administration. [Laughter.] He awapped Chase for Fessenden, and Blair for Dennison. His letter to Blair was a funny one. He said that Blair was the truest friend that he possessed; that he was the only man in the Cabinet self-denying, and, in spite of the intrigues of some of the against whom a word of complaint had never been uttered! One would think that after this he would retain him for- him. [Deafening applause.] ever. But he writes, "It would be a relief to me to see you go." [Great laughter.] Public opinion says he is about to swap Stanton for Banks, [more laughter,] but nobody has yet been found who considers himself small enough to be awapped for Stanton. [Rears of laughter.]

What else has the President done in regard to war At the outbreak of hostilities there was substantially but

the rebellion. The people every where decided that the lington by their ballots, but they will by their muskets; But they changed. And why? The President by his President defended by his Cabinet, and, headed by his in-South, exasperated and divided asunder the entire North. When the armies would work out a victory and the people would begin to have a feeling of confidence in the Union of some one in the North, and his subordinates would out of it. enter a citizen's house, drag him from his bed, and the decision of a court martial would sentence him to be banished from the country. All this exasperated the North. All this tended to prolong the war, and at the same time produced division and distress here. Then confiscation acts were passed and enforced, at times upon men who were as loyal as those who were in the President's armies.

And all this was not the exercise of wisdom on the part tion of the Administration and all the terrorism of the of the President, and tended only to exasperate where Government, but the State of Pennsylvania has never rethere should have been healing. All this business of arresting was confined to Democrats. There was not a single instance of a military arrest where the individual was a Republican. The Republicans said what they pleased about the President, but whoever heard of arrest ng one of them? Fremont denounced the President more of Pennsylvania will conspire to assist in the success of strongly than any Democrat ever did, and in his letter of acceptance he arrayed the President in language as succinct and unanswerable as any Democrat in the land could

do, but when was Fremont arrested? [Applause.] Through the whole of the war Mr. Lincola has man fested a want of capacity. The President of the United States should not be a military man, but he should either be a military man or conscious of his own ignorance enough to deter those whose experience, and skill, and power enable them to conduct military operations. Mr Lincoln had a plan of his own for taking Richmond. He wrote to Gen. McClellan on the 3d of February, 1862:

Major General McClellan.

My Dear Sir: You and I have distinct and different plan for the movement of the Army of the Potomac—yours to be be done by the Chesapeake, up the Kappahannock, to Ur-bana, across, and to the terminus of the railroad on the York river; mine to move directly to a point on the railroad southwest of Manassas. [Laughter.] If you will give me satisfactory answers to the following questions I shall gladly yield my plan to yours. [Great laughter.]

1st. Does not your plan involve a greatly larger expediture of time and money than MINE? [Laughter.] 2d. Wherein is a victory more certain by your plan tha mine? [Renewed laughter.]
3d. Wherein is a victory more valuable by your pla

than mine? [Great laughter.]
4th. In fact, would it not be less valuable in this: That it would break so great line of the enemy's communica-tions, [laughter,] while mine would. [Roars of laughter. 5th. In the event of a disaster would not a retreat b nore difficult by your plan than mine?

Yours, truly, A. LINCOLN It was much the best for the country that they had not one plan, for if they had had one it would have been Mr Lincolu's, and that would have placed the country beyond the hope of recovery.

The President was as good at issuing military orders as he was at making plans. He issued, in March, 1862, three army orders, called Order No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3. The first two we will pas: over, but the third has no equal in epistolary correspondence or military addresses It reads :

" Ordered, That the army and navy co-operate in an in mediate effort to cepture the enemy's batteries upon the Potomac between Washington and Chesapeake Bay." [In-Now, there is one plan we can all endorse. [Laughter.]

From issu'ng orders the President went to writing letters of lingering torture! showing what my plan was. He writes to Gen. McClellan on the 25th of May, 1862: "Can you not cut the Aquia Creek railroad; (also

what impression have you as to the entrenched works for you to contend with in front of Richmond. [Greatlaugh-Can you get near enough to throw the is into th [Roars of laughter.] No wonder he removed McClellan for not executing his

plans. After the grand and glorions battle of Antietam the President, like a great many other military men who are tinue. somewhat behind in the battle, but do not mean to be bebind in the pursuit, [merriment,] wrote to Gen. McClellan

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 19, 1862-245 P. M Your despatch of to-day is received. God bless you and all with you, [sensation:] destroy the rebel army if possible. [Renewed laughter.]

There was a plan now put in execution, and McClellan There was a plan now put in execution, and McClellan Woe to the people, dwellers in a land of plenty, to whom was removed and Burnside put in his place. With what result all the country knows. All this was the work of There is not a hamlet in the far West, a village in my own result all the country knows. All this was the work of

Two years ago the people began to declare that they given to the Administration at its outset. About the first would go for Gen. George B. McClellan for the next Preof March Gen. Scott wrote to President Lincoln and told sident. [Applause.] The assemblage that met at Chicago, representing the conservative men and the Democracy of the United States, presented his name as eminently worthy that high office; they believed Gen. McClellan to rishing food-a cup of coffee. I saw in a city whose church be an able and capable soldier. They knew him to be a go home, and keep quiet. [Renewed laughter.] The true and undoubted patriot, and an accomplished and excellent gentleman. [Cheers.] When he is elected we pitying Son of Mary. Hot tears of shame for my country. can say that we have a gentleman and lady in the White House. But what is more we will have an experienced soldier, who, using the power of the Union for the security Who's afraid?" [Great merriment.] Said Mr. Van of peace, will cease the war the moment peace can be pro cured by any other method. [Cheers.] The propositions submitted by Mr. Crittenden when the war commenced will be the only basis on which we can build up again the young General named George B. McClellan, [great ap old Union; that the States can be received into the Union plause,] who was put at the head of our army, and who either singly or collectively, as they choose to return, and that after such action they shall be protected in the rights they possessed when they went out [Deafening applause.

The different course of Mr. Lincoln, indicated in his 'all whom it may concern" proclamation, is that no proposition of peace will be received unless accompanied by the abolition of slavery. How does Mr. Lincoln expect to abolish slavery? In the Loyal States? No! He ex- is an extract from an official despatch of Gen. Forrest: pects to destroy it in the Seceded States at the South. while it is to be preserved in the Border Loyal States of Delaware, Maryland, and Kentucky. And the declaration of Mr. Lincoln is that he will not receive proposals for peace on other terms. Why, this course is unparalleled in the history of the world. He will not receive ministers to treat for peace. Without referring to history at any length. Washington, at the time of the "whiskey insurrection," did not refuse to receive propositions from rebels in arms against the Constitution, and he did not refuse to treat with them before surrender, and expect them to surrender before he would treat with them.

A word shout Gen. McClellan. I have it on the thority of Postmaster General Blair, that a gentleman, ausupposed to be in some terrible jeopardy at the capital, as thorized by Mr. Lincoln, waited on Gen. McClellan a few if the rebels had not sense enough to never take him while days ago, and offered him an important command as the adjunct and equal of Gen. Grant in the command of the and partly because Gen. McClellan's popularity with the armies, in case he would agree to certain stipulations; and the Postmaster could have gone further and told us more fully of the President's offer. Why, as recently as the The Administration has done another thing. It has kept month of Angust, it was stated to Gen. McClellan, by a up a steady trade in swapping horses. [Laughter.] The gentleman having authority from President Lincoln that if he would write a letter to the President saying he was prepared to support him, and to refuse to allow his name to be presented for the Presidential office, he should be assigned to a high command, and supported for the sucof the 113th Illinois, with orders to embark on board the cession of Abraham Lincoln's four years. [Roars of laughter.] Now, this would seem to infer both his military and civic qualifications, for it can hard'y be supposed that President Lincoln would indicate a succession to the Presidential office and support him for it if he was not as P. M the same day, without meeting any obstructions Washburne had not arrived at Eastport when the fleet well qualified as himself. [More laughter.]

Gen. McClellan is known to the people of the country.

There is a magnetism about some men that places them was about taking the precaution to make a reconnoissance out of the reach of newspaper calumny and the opposition or send out pickets. of men. There is something in a man which, when he is placed in the presence of his fellow-men, causes him to be loved and respected. -Gen. McClellan is just such a man.

How is the result of the election to be changed? The Republicans say that they will defeat his election by the soldiers' vote, and they make little equivocation of the fact hill were opened upon by the battery of five guns. that there will be cheating in the vote. Now, it may be that they will be mistaken. It may be an easy matter to cheat an unarmed man; but it is a dangerous thing to Massachusetts have nominated the Hon. Samuel Hooper cheat a man with a musket in his hands. If the soldiers for re-election to Congress, and J. M. S. Williams for Preone opinion in reference to the necessity of putting down be deprived of their suffrages, they may not reach Wash- sidential elector.

Government must be upheld and the Union preserved, and in such a case it would be a funny sight to see the proclamation divided the North and united the South: trepid self, sustaining himself against the outraged soldiers His measures and policy crushed out Unionism at the who were deprived of their power of suffrage. [Laughter. The speaker had a high opinion of the President's courage since his entrance into Washington in a Scotch cloak and cap. [Loud laughter.] But the same disguise and the Gavernment, the President would order the arrest that carried him in would not be so successful in getting

> The Republicans say that the war has been carried o by the Republicans, and that Democrats have held back from the struggle. It may be so, but if the Democrats had kept still and allowed the Republican party, with President Lincoln at their head, to prosecute the war Davis would be watering his horses in Goose Creek now. The Democracy have to face the whole patronage and corrupfused to respond to the call of the Union in its trial and its extremity. If she be equally true now, and the Key stone of the arch of the Union be firm in her position, the people of other States will ratify her decision next month. The wisdom, the courage, and the prudence of the people Gen. McClellan, and Pennsylvania, leading the way, will call upon the other States to endorse her action and swell the majorities for McClellan and the Union

Mr. Van Buren sat down amid great enthusiasm

IN THE SACRED NAME OF HUMANITY.

The subjoined letter was not written for the public eye; it was intended by the writer for the benevolent gentleman alone to whom it was addressed. But some to whom it was shown urged its publication as a public duty. It describes so feelingly the wretched condition of the miserable beings confined in one of the largest of our military prisons, and appeals so fervently and eloquently to our common humanity for sympathy and succo to the sufferers, that its publication was decided on, and with the proper name of the writer, to whose heart and pen it does so much honor.

BALTIMORE, OCTOBER 14, 1864. My DEAR SIR: My short acquaintance with you would hardly, under ordinary circumstances, warrant my thus addressing you; but I know you to be a Christian gentleman, and as such I appeal to you in an emergency of appalling magnitude.

I have just returned from Elmira. Though not permi ted to go inside the prison enclosure, I saw the condition of the fifteen hundred who were taken away for exchange, many of them in a dying condition. There are ten thousand prisoners at Elmira. A great number have been in confinement since the battle of Gettysburg. They have been kept at Point Lookout; have contracted disease from the unwholesome water there; were transferred to Elmira scantily clothed to face the cold Northern climate; no tea er coffee is allowed them; no variation of their scanty prison fare. No wonder that the mortality has been and i frightful-that the sick numbers fifteen hundred. Sleering on the ground, under tents, four blankets for five men many without socks or shoes, when at last taken to the hospital they are too far gone to be restored to life. Several of those taken away for exchange died on the cars. Happy they to be at rest! No more cold or hunger pangs Only think of it! Never to be warm have a full meal, a cup of coffee in a land of plenty—to die

It is useless to appeal to the Secretary of War. It rests with the men of the North to remove this foul stain from our country. The officers in charge of the prison at El-mira are kind and humane, but the condition of things is beyond their power to remedy. A quantity of coarse warm clothing is immediately required. Socks, under clothing, blankets, and thick knit jackets are wanted for hospit use, and an effort ought at once to be made, such as Mr. Stanton cannot withstand, to have them allowed coffee, tea, and sugar. I cann t, will not, believe that my countrymen of the North will permit this state of things to con

I know, sir, how nobly you have responded to the calle made upon you in the past, and I implore you to help me now. My voice is too feeble to reach the ears of the thou now. My voice is too feeble to reach the ears of the thou sands who ought to be willing as they are able to give to this holy charity. From every prison in the North, East, and West, from Rhode Island to Fort Warren, goes out this wail of suffering humanity—Clothing and blankets to keep us warm, food and coffee to save us from perishing native New England, not a mining town in California, but shelters some gray head, some bleeding, anguished heart. whose hearts go right up to Heaven for pity on these pri-soners—their own kindred, blood of their blood.

-, I cannot write of these things. Those fifteen hundred pale faces are before me as I saw them pass me at the depot. Those ghastly, pleading faces! I saw them here again—saw the pile of dead—dead from want of nonsteeples tower toward Heaven gentle women who would have given this nourishment driven by brutal police and etectives from the mission bequeathed to them by the en who permit these outrages upon humanity and chris tisnity-tears of pity for these poor sufferers blind my

es. I cannot write.

Help me, Mr. ——, and plead with others also to give of their abundance, as they hope for mercy in that awful hour when we must all give an account of our stewardship. I would plead for all the prisons, though I have only seen

With great respect, yours,
MARY W. RHODES.

THE DISASTER IN MISSISSIPPI

A rebel despatch, dated at Mobile on the 12th instant brings further intelligence of the disaster to a portion of Gen. Washburne's command at Eastport, Mississippi. It occurred about the 10th or 11th instant. The following

"Three Yankee gunboats and four transports were up the river yesterday as far as Eastport. They landed two thousand men and three pieces of artillery. Lieut. Col. Kelley, with Forrest's old command—the Twelfth Tennessee—surprised the enemy, capturing three guns twenty-five prisoners, and thirty horses. Two hundred of their hoats. The first shot from our batteries penetrated the boiler of one of the transports, and many men were scalded and burned to death. The boats have gone down the river. Our victory was complete

Since the foregoing was prepared for the press we have received another account of this reverse, as communicated in a special despatch to the Cincinnati Commercial. We here insert it:

PADUCAH, VIA CAIRO, OCT. 14, 1864 "The gunboat Key West came down the Tennessee yeardsy. Through the kindness of officers, I am placed it erday. possession of the following particulars of the disaster

our troops at Eastport: "It is well known that Gen. Washburne started up the Tennessee river with a considerable force, intending to form a junction with Gen. Rousseau at or near Florence ua. He arrived at Clifton on the 5th, and was there Alabama. He arrived at Clifton on the 5th, and was there joined by his cavalry, which had marched through the country from Memphis. Having completed his arrangements on the 5th, he took up the line of march for Florence with his whole command, but subsequently sent back a brigade of 1,200 men, including 650 colored, with steamers City of Pekin, Aurora, and Kenton, and proceed by river to Eastport, near which place the commands would again unite. The gunboats Key West and Rendine convoyed the expedition. They left Clifton on the morn-ing of the 10th and arrived at Eastport about two o'clock

Eastport consists of two warehouses, situated on the west bank of the Tennessee river, a few miles below Flo rence, near Chickseaw Landing. About one-fourth of a loved and respected. Gen. McClellan is just such a man.

No one who has been intimately associated with him has failed to love him. [Applause.] Modest, disinterested, lower ground or bayou, which overflows at ordinary high water. At the brow of the hill the rebels had planted a self denying, and, in spite of the intrigues of some of the officers, the soldiers of the army love him and will support. At the brow of the hill the rebels had planted a masked battery of five rifled guns, and a like battery at Chickasaw. The transports were laid abreast opposite se, and the artillery, supported by ab the warehouse, and the artillery, supported by about thre hundred and fifty men, were disembarked. Not suspect ing the presence of the enemy, the party now proceeded along the road, and midway between the landing and the

The Republican Convention of the fourth district o

THOUGHTS ON ARMY VOTING.

[Extract from Letter.]

ARMY OF POTOMAC, SEPTEMBER 20, 1864. My DEAR -: You ask my views as to the elections in the army. Let me take occasion, then, to make a record

The very idea of election, choice after information, disussion, deliberation, in an army, seems, as regards the election of civil rulers, preposterous; and its formal re- North. alization as a free expression of intelligent preference is scarcely conceivable by one habituated to army life. Above all must this be true in the case for which, among us, the experiment has been initiated—where the actual Commander-in-Chief is one of the candidates, and his late Lieutenant in command, displaced by himself to cripple him as a rival, is the alternate. An emphatic expression of free choice in such a case is hardly supposable, except under the conditions of insubordinate factiousness or virtual protest, akin to mutiny.

In an army confronting the enemy in an entire campaign there can be no open and free discussion of the qualifications, policy, measures, of its chief commander, and of the question of his continuance in supreme command. The very statement suggests to you that it must sweep discipline and unity from an army as a pestilence sweeps life. Unanimity, concerted and united action, and real harmony of feeling, are felt in an army to be a necessity, and this not only to success but to self-preservation. And this conviction, like an instinctive impulse, will always tend to carry armies like a tide, one way or the other; but any how together. And this over and above the added and everpresent influence of an authority which can constrain, and of a habit of conscious dependence on the will and power of superiors in office.

Such are the views of thoughtful and experienced men in the army itself. They deplore the fact of an election thrown into the army during a campaign. To old army officers, long accustomed to a dignified abstinence from the strifes and freedom from the passions of election times, it s an unwelcome and odious innovation. And the authors and abettors of it will, in the end, be forced to bear witness to the wisdom of sound statesmanship which, on principle, deprecated and protested against it; because it is an invasion of the field of individual civil suffrage by the organized and compacted force of a body corporate, such as an army must necessarily be. The change, it is felt, is not in the variable accidents of our polity, but in its substance, fundamental and organic, as time and events will prove. It is very far indeed from being yet ascertained, however, what the army vote will be. The days and hours are too

pregnant with events, exerting new and controlling influnces upon the nervous and susceptible public mind, both in the army and out of it, to warrant prediction. And there is this remarkable fact to be weighed and remembered in all reasonings on the subject as it stands before us in the now pending experiments: that the votes for

dark stern influences of partisan adhesion to a mere representative and instrument of certain dominant opinions and interests; the votes for the other from glowing and generous personal admiration, confidence, and affection towards the tried principles and character of the mao, well-known and loved. But no voice may be lifted up within the army to utter and impress such thoughts, however true; and I can only make record of them, and leave results where they belong. Yours.

THE OPERATIONS AGAINST RICHMOND.

Accounts from James river state that an important rethey drove before them, and continued on to the Central tremity. or Darbytown road, running up to Richmond. They had ot gone up this road far before they were met by opposing skirmishers, and, pressing on, Terry's men found themselves in front of a new and formidable line of rebel works, he set out, he concluded to return to camp. As soon as his troops commenced to withdraw the rebels sallied out and attacked them, but were speedily driven back, with heavy loss, their dead and wounded thickly strewing the ground. No further interference with the Union soldiers was attempted, and they returned to their position of the morning unmolested. Our loss in killed, wounded, and missing was about four hundred, and the enemy is thought to have suffered to about the same extent.

ARRESTS AT BALTIMORE.

About nine o'clock this (Monday) morning, Col. John Woolley, Provost Marshal, with a guard consisting of about one hundred men, proceeded to some of the most extensive houses of the city, and after placing a guard so as to pre-vent ingress and egress, arrested both proprietors and their clerks, and kept them under arrest. The following establishments were closed :

Hamilton Easter & Co., Baltimore street, the most extensive dry goods house in the city; Simon Frank & Co., corner of Hanover and German streets, importers and jobbers of dry goods, and doing an immense business; Weisenfeld & Co., wholesale and retail clothiers, Hanover street, and corner of wholesale and retail clothers, Hanover street, and corner of Baltimore street and Centre Market Space; Charles E. Wat-ers & Co., wholesale hardware merchants, South Charles street; Jordan & Rose, ladies furnishing house, corner of Baltimore and Hanover streets; Isaac Cole, jr. & Brother, commission merchants, Hanover street; and A. & L. Fried-enrich, Baltimore street.

The closing of these stores, and the stationing in front of them of an armed guard, attracted not only considerable attention, but occasioned much excitement. After possession had been obtained, all the clerks and proprietors were marched under guard to the quarters of the Provest Marshal, and, without much delay, were sent to Washington in a special train -American

THE SURRENDER OF ATHENS

We have already commented (says the New York Comnercial Advertiser) upon the ignominious surrender of Athens (Ala.) to Forrest by Col. Campbell, together with eleven hundred men. The following, from the Memphis Dispatch, makes the affair appear in still a worse light: "We are indebted to one of the members of the Eigh teenth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, which regiment was on provost duty here for a long time, for the following facts in relation to the capture of Athens, Alabama. The fight took place on the 24th ultimo. Two hundred and fifty men were detailed from the Eighteenth Michigan to rein-

force Col. Campbell at Athens. They fought from 9 A. M. until 2 P. M., when they got out of ammunition, and drove the enemy two miles at the point of the bayonet. When they got in sight of the fert they found that Col. Campbell had surrendered, and that they were surrounded by Con-federates. Being out of ammunition, and surrounded by greatly superior numbers, the Eighteenth also surrender-ed. Twenty-seven were killed and two hundred and fourteen wounded and captured."

After killing and wounding just thirty of the assailants Forrest's official report,) Col. Campbell surrendered his garrison, when he must have known from the firing that einforcements were near. How marked the contrast beween his conduct and that of the force sent to his rescue.

The garrison of the town consisted of four hundred men of the First Alabama Cavalry and eight hundred negroes of the 111th United States Colored Infantry.

NOMINATIONS IN MARYLAND.

The Unconditional Union State Convention of Maryland met at Baltimore on Tuesday and made the following nomi nations for State officers, to be voted for at the ensuing election :

For Governor-Hon. Thomas Swann, of Baltimore city

For Lieutenant Governor-Dr. Christopher C. Cox, of For Attorney General-Hon. Alexander Randall, of Anne

Arundel county.

For Comptroller—Robert J. Jump, of Caroline county.

For Judge of the Court of Appeals—Hon. Daniel Weisel, of Washington county, from the district composed of Alleghany, Washington, Frederick, Howard, and Carroll

In the first Congressional district Hon, J. A. J. Cres well; in the second the Hop. Edwin H. Webster; and in the fourth the Hon Frank Thomas, have all been renom i nated for re-election to Congress.

TO OUR CITIZEN SOLDIERS.

Since our recent address we are informed that your samps are being deluged with copies of a caricature and hand-bill, representing what is termed "A traitor's psace," and that this and every other conceivable means are resorted to for the purpose of exciting vindictive feelings in your minds, not only against the people of the South, but also against one-half of your fellow-citizens of the

Listen, while we address a few more words to your reason, to your humanity, to your patriotism, and not to your malignant passions.

If the pretended terms of peace which are found embodied in that caricature were ever boastingly prescribed by the Richmond Enquirer, as therein asserted, the great mass of the Southern people are no more responsible therefor than are we of the North for the turpitude of the Boston Liberator, when it calls the Constitution of the United States." a league with hell and a covenant with death!" Or for that of the New York Tribune when in alluding to the flag of your country it exclaimed "Tear down the flaunting lie!

It was a year ago when the Richmond Enquirer is said have put forth this swaggering manifesto. Circumstances have since changed. These are not the present views of the Southern people. Must they be exterminated now on account of a last year's boast of one of their newspapers?

The Democratic party is not now, and never has been, n favor of accepting any terms of peace like those intimated in this caricature. Any statement to that effect is wholly false. We are not responsible for what may be found, in the Richmond Enquirer. That paper favors the election of Abraham Lincoln. There is not a word in our platform, nor a sentiment advanced by either of our can. didates favoring an ending of the war on any such terms. From none of these sources will you find any allusion to peace except upon the basis of a restored Union. We lefy any one to gainsay this assertion.

But we do want peace when it can be coupled with a re-united Government. We believe our country to be upon the brink of ruin, and that a continuance of the civil war will soon bring national destruction. We have good easons to conclude that a large portion of our Southern fellow-countrymen are now willing to recant their errors and return to their old places in the Union.

The Richmond Sentinel-quite as good authority as the Richmond Enquirer—has recently proposed negotiation to us of the North; distinctly stating that although they desire separation, yet that such a condition would not be insisted upon. Commissioners have for many months been in Canada endeavoring to enter into informal negotiations for peace. They do not insist upon separation. Jefferson Davis has publicly stated his wish for a termination of the war, and that he had made efforts to secure it by negotiation. The same wish has been manifested through many the one candidate will be given from policy and under the other papers and public men. Just now, too, we see from a letter of Vice President Stephens that he favors peace by negotiation entered into upon the basis of a united Government. Should we not listen to men who with all their faults are still our fellow-countrymen?

Will you oppose an earnest effort to secure peace through the exercise of our reason before death and destruction have made further havoe both in the North and in the South? This is the great question now about to be settled by our united votes.

Mr. Lincoln has notified all the world that no proposition of peace can be entertained until the abandonment of slavery is first consented to. This will arouse the strongconnoissance, resulting in a considerable engagement, was est prejudices of the Southern heart. War will not be made on Thursday last by two divisions of the Tenth Army ended on those terms for years to come. As well might Corps, under Gen. Terry. The expedition proceeded in a we expect the abolitionists to consent to the establishment direction to the right of our right wing, and, after advanc- of slavery all over the North. Neither of those parties ing some distance, came upon the enemy's pickets, whom | would yield on such a point unless driven to the last ex-

On the other hand Gen. McClellan makes the restoration of the Union the sole condition of peace. All other matters in controversy may be settled without a continuation of bloodshed. Are you unwilling to permit a cessation of this strongly garrisoned by Hoke's and Fields' divisions. This murderous contest upon these terms? Do you really hate was an important discovery. These works have been built since the 29th ultimo, and are designed to supply the place of those taken from the rebels by our army on that day, and it was to ascertain their exact locality and strength that the reconnoissance was made, in which it was most successful. The enemy opened on our men from these When you have seen old men and women and children works and a severe fight ensued. Gen. Terry made an assault on the fortifications, but, deeming it impracticable to take them with the force at his disposal, and having desired to take them with the force at his disposal, and having camp fire shivering, starving, shelterless, did you feel an impulse prompting you to aid in carrying anguish and desolation and extermination throughout all the plains and valleys of the South merely to give immediate emancipation to a race who were a thousand times happier as you found them than as you would thus leave them?

> We know better. You have human hearts in your bosoms, and not those of fiends. You are brave men, and therefore never wantonly cruel. They who seek by words or pictures to excite your malevolent feelings, and thus urge you on to acts of atrocity, are your own worst enemies. They are not of your number, but are sneaking cowards who remain at home to profit by your blood and suffering; contractors who in safety are growing rich by cheating you in your food and clothing; cotton dealers, contraband traders, or men who in some other way are expecting to derive some private advantage through your hardships and your death. These are among the class of persons who endeavor to excite your diabolical hatred towards those with whom you hope to live again in a willing and friendly union. They often make flaunting display of their generosity by appropriating a small fraction of their ill-gotten gains to promote your welfare, and encourage you onward-just as the butcher feeds and favors the animal he intends for the shambles. Be assured that they who are denominated copperheads have contributed ten times more for your comfort in proportion to the prohits they have derived through your sufferings and sacrifices than have they who pretend to be exclusively your friends.

Are there not enough of cripples, and orphans, and widows already? Are the miseries and bereavements we now witness to serve as arguments disinclining you still to peace? When shall the war then end? The longer it continues the more will these arguments multiply, and peace can only result from utter extermination. Remember that in every house you burn you destroy a home; every death you inflict may carry anguish and gloom into circle as loving and as tearful as that which would gather around your own lifeless remains to lament the dreadful consequences of civil war.

Are your thoughts thus led back to your unforgotten homes, and to the anxious friends who are impatiently awaiting your return? How warmly they will greet you, and with how much interest will they listen to your recital of the dangers through which you have passed! How proudly will you tread those old familiar haunts, when you can do so with the consciousness that the Government under which you have once lived so happily has been fully restored, and in part by your efforts!

That you may soon meet with such a welcome is the object of our fondest hopes, of our most strepuous exertions. This will not be the case if you lend yourselves to the purposes of those who seek only to arouse your feelings of vengeance and of bate. Whatever may be their professions, these men are the real disunionists of the country. They prevent a return of that kindly feeling without which there can be no willing association. There may be peace resulting from irresistible power on the one side and abject subjection on the other, but this is not union. It is not what you have been fighting for; it is not

what you desire. By order of the Committee :

CHAS. MASON, Chairman

OHIO ELECTION.

CINCINNATI, OCT. 18 .- Returns from eighty counties n Ohio give a Union majority of 26,163, with some nine or ten counties to hear from.

[The majority here reported includes the home vote nly, which last year was upwards of 60,000. The soldiera vote is yet to be counted.]

FROM NEW ORLEANS.

NEW ORLEANS, OCT. 19 .- The steamer Continental from New Orleans on the 13th, has arrived. She has on board the rebel General Page, and many other rebel prisoners. No papers were received by the Continental.